shire, between Worksop and Chesterfield, used for the small internal courts. 4. Magnesian limestone, from Woodhouse, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. This stone has a beautiful yellow tint, with very small black spots, and takes a smooth face. 5. The magnesian limestone, from Bolsover, Derbyshire, held, in the published report, to be the most eligible of the number of coarser grain than No. 4. 6. Magnesian limestone, from Stone Ends, North Anston, Yorkshire, between Worksop and Sheffield, used for the plinth of the building towards the river. 7. The magnesian limestone, from Woodhouse, near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, Lindley's Bolsover Quarry, used for a portion of the mouldings and carvings. 8. Magnesian limestone, Norfall, Anston, Yorkshire, between Worksop and Sheffield, used for the structure generally. 9. Another specimen of magnesian limestone, from Steelly, Derbyshire, used for the small internal courts. 10. Magnesian limestone, from North Anston, Yorkshire, between Worksop and Sheffield, used for the superstructure generally. The colour of this stone is dark yellow, being darker than that from Norfall Anston.

In the collection is a specimen of the stone from Taynton, Oxfordshire, used in the interior of St. Paul's Cathedral; it is a coarse shelly oolite. The sand-stone used in the restoration of Hereford Cathedral, is from Capler Quarry, eight miles south-east of Hereford, on the Wye, and is in colour a reddish drab. The pieces of granite and marble are some of them very beautiful. We found the black serpentine, the black and the veined gray, and reddish marble, the white alabasters of Devonshire, Derbyshire, and Scotland. Many of these are exhibited wrought into vazzas and ornamental vessels. The history of porcelain is exhibited in specimens of pottery from Egypt, Etruria, and Mexico, down to our times, when it is formed into tiles for church pavements, and into such rich and elegant forms as are here exhibited by Messrs. Copeland and Garrett. There are specimens of Keene's cement, Broseley clay, Stourbridge clay, and a series illustrating the uses of plaster of Paris. Mr. C. H. Smith has contributed an Egyptian capital, copied by himself, we believe, in granite, from one in the British Museum, by way of illustrating the perfection to which the art of tempering steel is brought in modern times.—The gallery on the first floor is devoted to specimens of coal, and of the English and foreign ores. There are also some interesting illustrations of the various states which metal assumes under the influence of art or nature; as of the change which iron undergoes from the fibrous to the crystalline state when employed in axles. Copper, and sulphur, and their uses, are also shewn. There is a beautiful series illustrative of the mode of preparing dies for coinage, and the electrotypes are the best collection that we ever saw. The process of making swords and gun-barrels is illustrated, and most clearly explained by Mr. Wilkinson, of Pall Mall. Though the ornamental is not professedly sought after in the collection, it happens that there are several curiosities most interesting to the artist and the man of taste. Among these is a model of the monument to William de Valence, senior Earl of Pembroke, half-brother of Henry the Third, who died in 1304, exhibiting the use of enamel in the costly tombs of that period. The model was prepared under the direction of Albert Way, Esq. The figure is entirely gilt, and the shield emblazoned in blue, red, and gold, the horizontal surface of the the tomb being covered in diaper, with heraldic achievements. The collection of enamels is highly interesting, and includes, amongst other things, a reliquary of the 12th or 13th century, and a casket of the 14th century, emblazoned with the arms of England and Valence. There is a candlestick of the 14th century, and a pyx of the same date. On the wall of this room is suspended a "Flemish Monumental Brass, of Lodewye Cortewille, of Cortewille, near Liege, who died 1504, and of his wife, Colyne Van Castre, who died 1496;" the analysis gives the following result:—

Copper	64	0
Zinc	29	5
Lead	3	5
Tin	3	0
	100	0

The room on the second floor contains surveying instruments and mining tools, specimens of bricks and tiles, and models. The skill of our ancestors is evidenced in a coat of mail, weighing seventeen pounds, and containing many thousand links, each one being separately rivetted. In conclusion, we advise our professional brethren to avail themselves of the advantages which this collection offers; it has hitherto been little visited, and it is with the view of gaining it a greater share of attention, and the assistance in contributions which architects can often so easily afford, that we have been led to devote so much space to it.

COVENT GARDEN IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

In the last part of the "Archæologia," there is a copy of the counterpart of a lease from the Earl of Bedford to Sir William Cecil, afterwards the Lord Treasurer Burghley, of part of the "Enclosure or Pasture, communely called Covent Garden, scituate in Westm'." It was executed in 1570, and is interesting to investigators of metropolitan antiquities, as affording information with regard to the state of a portion of London now occupied by a numerous population; but, which, in the reign of Elizabeth, presented a very different appearance. The portion in question is said by the lease to be "dyvyeded from the rest of the said Enclosure called Covent Garden on the west syde of the said porcyon or p'cell nowe demysed wth certayne stulpes and Rayles of wood, and is fenced wth a wall of mudde or earth on the East next vnto the Comune high-waye that leadeth from Stronde to St. Gyles in the fyeldes, and on the west end towardes the South is fensed wth the orcharde wall of the said S' Willm Cecyll, and on the South end wth a certayne fence wall of mudde or earthe, beinge therebye devyeded from certayne Gardens belonginge to the Inne called the Whyte Heart, and other tenementes scituate in the high streate of Westin', comunly called the Stronde." Mr. Albert Way, the present accomplished director of the Society of Antiquaries, who laid this document before the members, remarks in a letter which accompanied it:—

"With regard to the limits of Covent Garden, as defined in this lease, I must appeal to those who are versed in the ancient topography of the metropolis to explain the position of the various boundaries described in the document; but I would offer an observation on the modes of inclosure whereby, in the reign of Elizabeth, property so immediately in the vicinity of the city of London was fenced, even where it adjoined the great highways at the very entrance of the metropolis. It is curious to compare the approaches of London, as they now appear, with their aspect nearly three centuries since, as set forth in the terms of this lease; and to view the advances of civilization and luxury, illustrated by the comparison of the conspicuous public monuments and suitable fences which now adjoin Hyde Park-corner, or the Cumberland-gate, with the mud walls and 'stulpes' which presented themselves to the visitor of London in the 16th century at the gates of the city. At that period the ancient process of forming walls by means of indurated earth was still extensively employed: in the eastern counties this was called dan-bing, and the term is still retained in Norfolk and Suffolk; but the process is now used, to any considerable extent, in the more remote county of Devon only: The subject of the coli-walls of the western counties, and of the use of concrete, generally, in all ages, and particularly in Spain, where important ancient structures formed with mud walls may still be seen, has been curiously illustrated in the "Quarterly Review," Vol. LVIII., by the able pen, as I believe, of Mr. Richard Ford, of Heavitree.

"Sir William Cecil had his dwelling, originally built by Sir Thomas Palmer in the times of Edward VI., upon the site of the parsonage-house of St. Martin's-in-the-fields, situate in the High-street, at the south end of Drury-lane. Sir William had bestowed much pains in beautifying this his abode, which adjoined the property of the Earl of Bedford, and had an orchard contiguous to the inclosure, known as the Covent-garden, a portion of which was leased to him by the earl. This portion is described as divided by certain stulpes and rails of wood. This obsolete term, stulp, is now retained only in the dialect of Norfolk, and is used to signify a low post fixed as a boundary. In the first English Dictionary, which was compiled in Norfolk during the reign of Henry VI., called the 'Promptorium Parvulorum,' this word occurs, as well as the greater part of those archaic terms which are now retained almost exclusively in the East Anglian dialect. In this curious dictionary is found 'stulpe or stake, *palillus*.' The same term is used by the chronicler Fabyan to denote the bulwark or fence at the approach of London Bridge on the Southwark side, where he relates how the rebel Jack Cade drove back the citizens of London 'from the stulpes in Southwarke, or bryge fote, unto ye drawe-brydge.' A.D. 1450."

BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES FOR THE LABOURING CLASSES.

The committee, after a month's consideration, have selected the plan of Mr. P. P. Baly, as the best of twenty-two which were submitted to them in competition.

The unsuccessful candidates have received intimation that their drawings will be returned, on application at Crosby-square, after the 27th instant, and that the committee have resolved that the successful competitor shall not be permitted to see the plans of the other competitors. We do not see the necessity or advantage of this resolution, and if it is to be used as a reason for the exclusion of all persons from an examination of them, utter a decided protest against it. We have already received letters from competitors inquiring why their drawings are to be detained till the 27th: we trust it may be for the purpose of exhibiting them. We shall hope to lay information on the subject before our readers next week.

DANGER OF IMPROPERLY FIXING STOVES.

The carelessness with which close stoves are constantly placed so as to jeopardize whole neighbourhoods, is deserving of severe reprehension and really calls for some interference. We constantly see them put up in immediate proximity to wooden fittings, even in a recess *lined* with wood and sometimes with the smoke-pipe passing through a hole in a chimney-board! Because no accident occurs immediately, it is thought to be perfectly safe; they forget that the wood so exposed to the heat becomes every day more and more ignitible, and are not awakened to the danger till the house is in flames, which further, may reach the property of others not equally deserving of such an infliction.

Only a few nights ago, a house in Charlotte-street, Bloomsbury, would probably have been burnt down from the above cause, if the occupier of the adjoining house had not been aroused by smoke and the smell of fire, and obtaining entrance, succeeded in stopping the progress of the flames.

Many of the late fires have originated in this manner, but experience unfortunately seems to have very little effect until it is paid for.

The constant occurrence of fires in the metropolis is a subject for most serious consideration. The amount of property destroyed annually, to say nothing of the loss of life, is immense; if but a small part of it were yearly expended by the community in a proper way, this might be prevented and all its consequent distress and misery.

Court of Chancery.—The ancient hall of Lincoln's-inn, in which the Chancellors of England have sat for so many years, is nearly stripped of all the armorial bearings which decorated its walls, and the stained glass that ornamented the windows, the whole of which have been removed to the new hall, Lincoln's-inn. The admired picture of "Paul pleading before Agrippa," which has so long ornamented the end of the hall, has also been removed to the new building. It is said that it is in contemplation to add the present kitchen (which is only divided by a passage) to the present hall, and then divide the building into three courts, one for the Lord Chancellor, the others for the Vice-Chancellors. If this plan is carried into execution, the temporary courts at present occupied by Vice-Chancellor Knight Bruce and Vice-Chancellor Wigram will be pulled down.—*Globe.*

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